



Annual Report 2018 - 2019

Feeding people in need and mobilizing our community to eliminate hunger.



A Letter from Lisa Scales

President & CEO

Fiscal year 2019 was a landmark year for Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. For the first time in the history of our organization we distributed more than 10 million pounds of produce! This was not by accident. As part of our long-term strategic vision, we have committed to providing more fresh food options to people who are food insecure. Not only do we have a bold goal of closing the meal gap in our region, but also helping people to stabilize their lives. Ensuring people have fresh, healthy food to eat allows us to achieve this goal.

While produce was a highlight of FY19, we had to respond to the unfortunate uptick in need for food assistance due to the government shutdown. One in seven people in our region are food insecure, and an additional 20,000 government workers in Pennsylvania were out of work due to the shutdown. Like anyone living paycheck to paycheck, and then not receiving one for an extended period, the shutdown had a significant impact on their finances. Many turned to the Food Bank for food in order to free up their budgets.

Local partnerships are vital to our mission, with Giant Eagle being one of our strongest. Through financial contributions and donated food, Giant Eagle offers significant support to ensure that our neighbors in need have enough food to lead healthy lives. Thanks to Giant Eagle and other partners like you, we distributed food for nearly 36 million meals in FY19.

Our sustainability efforts continue to grow. We are aware of the impact of our operations and are committed to environmental efforts that make positive social and ethical contributions in our community. Through our sustainability committee, we reduced our waste by 26 percent in just one quarter!

Looking ahead as we continue to grow into the Food Bank for the future, I am confident in the overall success and impact of our mission that is only possible with generous community support. Together with our community, we will continue to build upon our core values such as sustainability, along with health and wellness, and will mobilize our community to feed our neighbors in need and eliminate hunger.

Lisa A. Scales

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Meeting the Need

Where we're Needed

When we're Needed

Imagine this: You're a single mother with two children. You have a full-time job with benefits. The budget at home is tight but you're able to pay your bills and have a little left over at the end of the month. You recently had a surgery that has kept you out of work longer than expected. You've tapped into your savings to keep the lights on and pay your mortgage. Right as you are going back to work, your car needs a major repair. It's two weeks until the next paycheck and repairing the car will take all your remaining savings. You make the repair, but there is no money left for groceries. You need food for your kids. What do you do?

Situations like this happen every day to thousands of our neighbors across the region. According to the Federal Reserve Board, if faced with a \$400 emergency expense, 40 percent of Americans would need to borrow money, sell something or simply not be able to make that payment.

In January 2019, the federal government shut down, leaving hundreds of thousands of government employees with well-paying, secure jobs suddenly without a paycheck and with bills piling up at home. The choices suddenly got tough.

"I've never had to worry about paying bills. We're probably good through the beginning of March, but only because we're getting help. I am required to work, so I can't apply for unemployment, and I can't apply for a part time job because I have to get approval for that, and no one is here to give that approval. For my job, a good credit score is required. I can't skip or miss payments. So I'm in a position to ask myself, do I pay a bill or do I eat?" - IRS law enforcement worker (essential employee, working without pay)



Throughout our history, the Food Bank has shifted to serve different groups of people who need us. We began with a focus on homeless men in the urban core. Then, we shifted to help hundreds of thousands who were unemployed after the collapse of the steel industry.

During the government shutdown, we ramped up our services. In two weeks, we mobilized to prepare more than 15 tons of fresh produce, grocery items and household staples for the community. This resulted in food distributed through a correctional facility in Cambria County; the Pittsburgh International and Allegheny County airports; and three special additional distributions designed to reach those individuals where it was most convenient and comfortable to receive help.

As the need in our region continues to change, we will continue to innovate and find new and efficient ways to meet the needs of the underemployed and those who struggle with episodic need.

With your continued help and support, we can end food insecurity in southwestern Pennsylvania.

To help ensure that all of our neighbors have enough to eat, please consider making a donation today by mailing a check in the enclosed envelope or by giving online at pittsburghfoodbank.org/donate.

A Commitment to the Community



Retail partners like grocery stores are a vital component of food banking. They provide much of the food that is sorted in our Repack Center, distributed to agencies and shared with our neighbors. Giant Eagle has been a generous supporter of Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank since we opened our doors 40 years ago, keeping families fed and helping us fight food insecurity one meal at a time.

As a food retailer, Giant Eagle has a passion for supporting organizations that help individuals put food on their tables. Our truck drivers make regular visits to Giant Eagle stores to pick up food donations – anything from frozen meat to bread, shelf-stable items and fresh produce. The company’s footprint does not stop at food, though. Giant Eagle has contributed monetary donations, volunteer hours and board memberships to bring our partnership to life.

Through annual fundraising efforts like Fall Food Share, shoppers give back to the Food Bank through monetary and purchased food donations.

In partnership with Giant Eagle, Citizens Bank and KDKA-TV, the Feed the Kids Summer Telethon highlights child food insecurity in southwestern PA and raises funds to support our child nutrition programs.



Last year, Giant Eagle helped to provide more than 1.8 million pounds of food and hundreds of thousands of dollars through both events.

The support that comes from Giant Eagle is company-wide. Team Members dedicate hours of time volunteering in our Repack Center. Warehouse staff sort and deliver thousands of pounds of food for donation each week. Company leaders lend time and talent to board membership and guidance. It is nearly impossible to find a corner of the Food Bank that Giant Eagle is not passionately involved in.

Giving back is not a new concept to Giant Eagle. Their founding families believed every person has a right to feed themselves and their families fresh, wholesome food. It is a belief that continues today throughout the company. As we work to distribute more fresh produce throughout our network, Giant Eagle has been a driving factor in helping us achieve this goal.

As all organizations and relationships grow and develop, so too must the partnership between Giant Eagle and the Food Bank. Financial and product donations will always play a prominent role, but the company continues to look for new and innovative ways to evolve. Giant Eagle stands next to us as we plan to distribute more fresh food, while also sharing advancements in technological capabilities and an eye toward impactful new health models.

The Food Bank would look much different with Giant Eagle. We are tremendously grateful to have their support as we work together to feed more individuals and end hunger in our region.

To learn more about corporate partnerships contact Jennifer Zgurich, director of corporate and community giving at jzgurich@pittsburghfoodbank.org or 412-745-6453.



Serving Sustainably

Sustainability is at the heart of food banking. In 1998, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank made a sustainability commitment when it broke ground on a brand new building and entered the LEED Pilot program.

“Taking that pioneering leap, our building became the first LEED-certified food bank in the country and one of the first LEED-certified buildings in the region. The Food Bank features several unique, sustainable components, including floors made with old tires and retention ponds that collect runoff,” said Dana Launius, special distributions coordinator, and member of the organization’s Sustainability Committee.

Our service to the community has evolved over the years, but sustainability has remained at our core. The Food Bank uses an efficient route design for its trucks, all of which leave the warehouse with a full load of deliveries, then return full of donations so they are never on the road empty.

The Food Bank prioritizes recycling materials such as cardboard, plastic, aluminum and paper, plus other items like batteries, scrap metal and wooden pallets.

A pig farmer picks up food scraps from the Food Bank, diverting about 4,000 - 8,000 pounds of un-distributable food each month that would otherwise go to a landfill.

“More than 12 million pounds of donated, perishable food distributed by the Food Bank in 2018 would have otherwise gone to a landfill. This would have generated an estimated equivalent of more than 23 million pounds of CO2 emissions,” said Kurt Lindsey, community food connections coordinator, and member of the Food Bank Sustainability Committee. “Of the total waste generated by the Food Bank last year, 27 percent was composted or donated to a local pig farm and 15 percent was recycled.”



Local celebrities, Katelyn Sykes of WTAE and Abby Krizner of WXDZ serve soup at the Empty Bowls event. The event had a zero-waste focus.

Last year, the Food Bank’s Sustainability Committee participated in the Sustainable Pittsburgh Challenge as a way to determine what we are doing well and how we can do more in the future. This challenge brought our internal composting system to life, which reduced our waste by 26 percent in one quarter. We also conducted a water quality test, installed a water filtration system, partnered with Agrecycle to make our Empty Bowls event a zero-waste event and will continue these efforts for years to come. The Food Bank proudly won first place in the ‘Medium Nonprofits’ category of the Sustainable Pittsburgh Challenge.

With your support, the Food Bank is reducing food waste and our environmental impact. To learn more about our core commitments around how we serve the community, visit pittsburghfoodbank.org/our-commitments.

10 Million Pounds of Produce Delivered to our Neighbors



During the summer of 2018, Food Bank staff and volunteers we asked people accessing help from the Food Bank and our partners about the challenges they face with their health and wellness. Our goal was to better understand the needs of the people we serve and to guide our strategy to help increase healthy eating habits and to improve overall health.

As a result, we learned that 80 percent of food insecure households have one or more people living with at least one diet-related disease or health risk. We also learned that while fresh foods are something families want to have as part of their regular diet, only 32 percent eat them daily because access is a challenge. Eighty-three percent said that fresh fruits and vegetables cost too much to buy.

Armed with this information and a dedication to providing the best service possible to the community, we renewed our commitment to increasing the amount of fresh produce we're distributing through our network. Our goal is for 50 percent of the food we distribute to be fresh produce, and we're making progress. This year, for the first time ever, we distributed 10 million pounds of produce - accounting for 32 percent of distributed food.

Continuing to push towards the 50 percent goal requires change, flexibility and innovation. Originally designed to distribute mainly canned and boxed food, food banks were not set-up to handle fresh foods. While we're working to find ways to build our own capacity by adding cooler space; strengthening our relationships with farmers, distributors and retailers; and changing how we get food into our network and move it through our building, we're also working with our network partners across the 11 counties we serve to build their capacities. As a result, our network is stronger than ever with new equipment to properly handle these fresh foods as well as new distribution times and models that will meet the needs of the communities we serve.

With your support, the amount of fresh foods we distribute will continue to grow and as a result southwestern Pennsylvania will be healthier and stronger.

To join us in making more fresh foods available to our neighbors in need, email us at info@pittsburghfoodbank.org or call 412-460-3663.



"I live on fresh fruit and vegetables because I'm a diabetic and have to watch what I eat. This helps so much because I'm retired, on a fixed income and eating healthy is expensive."

- Constance, Produce to People participant

FY 2018-19

Financial

Information

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank benefits from the generous support of individuals, organizations, companies and foundations. Your gifts of food and funds are helping to meet the need in our region!

Visit pittsburghfoodbank.org/financials to access our 990 and audited financials.

Operating Revenue by Source (millions)		
53%	Donated Food	\$28.9
22%	Financial Contributions	\$12.1
19%	Government	\$10.2
6%	Earned Income	\$3.2
	Total Revenue	\$54.4

Financial Contributions by Source (millions)		
47%	Individuals	\$5.7
31%	Foundations	\$3.8
11%	Corporations	\$1.3
10%	Organizations	\$1.2
1%	Other	\$0.1
	Total Contributions	\$12.1

Functional Expenses by Program (millions)		
91%	Food Distribution	\$46.3
4%	Network Outreach	\$2.1
4%	Food Security Partnerships	\$2.1
1%	Outreach and Education	\$0.6
	Total Expenses	\$51.1

Operating Expenses by Category (millions)		
65%	Food Distribution	\$35.7
9%	Network Outreach	\$4.7
20%	Food Security Partnerships	\$10.8
3%	Outreach and Education	\$1.6
3%	Supporting Services	\$1.8
	Total Expenses	\$54.6